United Nations A/RES/59/235

General Assembly

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22 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (*e*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/483/Add.5)*]

59/235. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/242 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reaffirming that desertification constitutes a serious obstacle to sustainable development and contributes to food insecurity, famine and poverty, which are factors that can give rise to social, economic and political tensions, including forced migration and conflicts, and that the Convention is an important tool for poverty eradication,

Reaffirming also the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Emphasizing the need for the provision of adequate resources for the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, of the Global Environment Facility,

Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] and in this regard invites all Governments to take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to give due consideration to the role and place of the Convention in ongoing work in the context of the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2005, including the report of the Millennium Project;

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

5. *Takes note with interest* of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty;

6. *Invites* the donor community to increase its support to the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of land degradation and desertification, which will contribute to the improvement of the sustainable development of drylands and the global environment;

7. *Invites* the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the Convention to finalize the draft memorandum of understanding in an expeditious way and to submit it, as mandated by Conference of the Parties decision 6/COP.6 of 3 September 2003,[4] for the consideration of and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

8. *Takes note* of Conference of the Parties decision 23/COP.6 of 5 September 2003 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2004–2005,[4] as an ongoing process of the Conference of the Parties to undertake a comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat, as defined in article 23, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and looks forward to the review at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

9. *Urges* United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, the donor countries and other development agencies to integrate actions in support of the Convention into their strategies to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

11. *Encourages* countries to undertake special initiatives in observance of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and, as they are able, to contribute to its preparatory process;

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[3] See A/59/197, sect. II.

[4] See ICCD/COP(6)/11/Add.1.

12. *Reiterates* the invitation to all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2004–2005, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for 1999 and/or the bienniums 2000–2001 and 2002–2003 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[5] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

14. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[7] and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

[5] ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7–11.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/483/Add.6)*]

59/236. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002 and 58/212 of 23 December 2003,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Taking note of the entry into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,[2] the objectives of which are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Kuala Lumpur, from 9 to 20 and on 27 February and from 23 to 27 February 2004, respectively,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001* (C 2001/REP), appendix D.

Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in the first half of 2006,

Noting the efforts of the Government of France to organize a biodiversity-related conference in Paris in 2005,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;[3]

2. *Takes note also* of the outcome of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[3] and the outcome of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[3] and urges all parties to these respective agreements to implement their decisions;

3. *Notes* the recent progress made with respect to the achievement of the three objectives set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. *Notes also* the progress made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in establishing an operational framework for the implementation of the Protocol, and reiterates that the effective implementation of the Protocol will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in capacity-building for biosafety;

5. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity[4] to consider doing so;

7. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[2]

8. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

9. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

10. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[6] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages

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[3] See A/59/197, sect. III.

[4] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Stresses* the importance of harmonizing the reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions while respecting their independent legal status;

12. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

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General Assembly

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24 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (g)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/483/Add.7)*]

59/237. United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992,[1]

Recalling also the work programme on education, public awareness and training initiated by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session in 1996[2] and elaborated upon at its sixth session in 1998,[3]

Recalling further the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] on education to promote sustainable development, in particular its provision 124,

Recalling its resolutions 57/254 of 20 December 2002 and 58/219 of 23 December 2003,

Underlining in this regard the fact that the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development shall begin on 1 January 2005,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, identified education as one of the cross-cutting issues of its multi-year programme of work,[5]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that by 2015 children everywhere, boys

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8* (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/11, para. 2.

[3] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29), chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/3, sect. C.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003.

and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that boys and girls will have equal access to all levels of education,

Taking note of the oral report presented on 18 October 2004 at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the Assistant Director-General for Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding its preparations for the Decade,[6]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[7] in particular the reference to the issue "Learning to live with risk", as regards the need to focus on education and awareness, linked with the Decade, to be considered at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,[8]

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Reaffirms* that education for sustainable development is critical for promoting sustainable development;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in coordination with other relevant United Nations organizations and programmes, while taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to call upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to finalize the draft international implementation scheme for the Decade as soon as possible, preferably by the beginning of the Decade, in consultation with Governments, the United Nations and relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, while clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum[9] and the United Nations Literacy Decade;[10]

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to call upon the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit the draft international implementation scheme to the governing bodies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for their final consideration and adoption;

5. *Encourages* Governments to consider the inclusion, especially upon completion and adoption of the international implementation scheme, of measures to implement the Decade in their respective educational systems and strategies and, where appropriate, national development plans;

6. *Invites* Governments to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the Decade, inter alia, through cooperation with and initiatives

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[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Second Committee*, 14th meeting (A/C.2/59/SR.14), and corrigendum.

[7] A/59/228.

[8] Ibid., para. 8.

[9] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[10] See resolution 56/116.

engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders, especially at the beginning of the Decade;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a mid-term review of the implementation of the Decade, for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

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22 December 2004

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Agenda item 85 (*h*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/483/Add.8)*]

59/238. Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002 and 58/216 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,[1]

Recalling chapter 13 of Agenda 21[2] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Decides to consider at its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas", bearing in mind its resolution 58/216.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Agenda item 86

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/484)]

59/239. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002 and 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decision 2004/300 of 23 July 2004,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2]

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[5]

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, as proposed in the Cities Without Slums Initiative, and recalling further the goal contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to halve, by

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation,

Recognizing that the overall thrust of the strategic vision of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the continued urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation,

Reiterating the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase the efforts to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing-finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing that humanitarian assistance in the field of human settlements must be provided in ways that will be supportive of reconstruction and long-term development,

Noting the convening of the second session of the World Urban Forum, organized by UN-Habitat in cooperation with the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Municipality of Barcelona, in Barcelona, from 13 to 17 September 2004,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Canada and the city of Vancouver for their willingness to host the third session of the World Urban Forum in 2006,

Emphasizing the importance of access to basic services for the urban poor, and in this regard noting the decision of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its nineteenth session on water and sanitation in cities,[7]

Noting the commitment to integrate urban planning and management in relation to housing, transport, employment opportunities, environmental conditions and community facilities, and further noting the commitment to promote, where appropriate, the upgrading of informal settlements and urban slums as an expedient measure and pragmatic solution to the urban shelter deficit,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

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[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/58/8), annex I, resolution 19/6.

[8] A/59/198.

2. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2] and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of the requisite resources, capacity-building, the transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

3. *Calls for* continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites Governments to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation;

4. *Also calls for* increased, non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector and other relevant partners to field-test approaches through pilot projects and to develop longer-term programmes to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

6. *Calls upon* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and other operational activities of UN-Habitat for the effective implementation of its field programmes;

7. *Recognizes* the important role of regional offices and personnel of UN-Habitat in providing operational support to developing countries, and in this regard calls upon Governments to strengthen and support financially the regional offices of UN-Habitat in order to expand operational support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

8. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with the other organizations of the United Nations system, integrating UN-Habitat staff as appropriate into existing United Nations country offices;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

10. *Encourages* Governments to establish local, national and regional urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination;

11. *Encourages* Member States as well as Habitat Agenda partners to provide support for the preparation of the UN-Habitat flagship reports, the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report, on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world;

12. *Encourages* Governments to support the UN-Habitat Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance as important tools for, inter alia, promoting administration of land and property rights, in

accordance with national circumstances, and enhancing access to affordable credit by the urban poor;

13. *Invites* Governments to continue to promote linkages between urban and rural areas in line with the Habitat Agenda, which recognized that cities and rural areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally;

14. *Encourages* Governments and UN-Habitat to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners, including women's groups and academic and professional groups, in order to empower them, within the legal framework and conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

15. *Also encourages* Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through social, cultural and economic activities at the city level and other national- and local-level activities;

16. *Further encourages* Governments to include issues pertaining to shelter, sustainable human settlements and urban poverty in their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

17. *Urges* the donor community to support the efforts of developing countries to make pro-poor investments in services and infrastructure in order to improve living environments, in particular in slums and informal settlements;

18. *Requests* UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development, and encourages UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant agencies in the United Nations system in this field;

19. *Invites* the Secretary-General to incorporate the assessment of progress made towards the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 in his report on the review in 2005 of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[6]

20. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to work together closely in the preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to ensure a fruitful policy discussion of the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

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22 December 2004

General Assembly

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Agenda item 87 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/485/Add.1)*]

59/240. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998, 54/231 of 22 December 1999, 55/212 of 20 December 2000, 56/209 of 21 December 2001, 57/274 of 20 December 2002 and 58/225 of 23 December 2003 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Recalling also its resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004,

Reaffirming the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for the people of the world,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities for the growth of the world economy and development, that globalization offers new perspectives for the integration of developing countries into the world economy and that it can improve the overall performance of the economies of developing countries by opening up market opportunities for their exports, by promoting the transfer of information, skills and technology and by increasing the financial resources available for investment in physical and intangible assets, acknowledging that globalization has also brought new challenges for growth and sustainable development and that developing countries have been facing special difficulties in responding to them, recognizing that some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization but that many others, especially the least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, and recognizing also that, as stated in the Millennium Declaration, the benefits and costs of globalization are very unevenly distributed,

Recognizing also that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development, reaffirming its commitment to trade liberalization and to ensuring that

[1] See resolution 55/2.

trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all, welcoming in that regard the decisions taken by the World Trade Organization to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of its work programme, and committing itself to their implementation,

Recognizing further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Noting that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide an environment preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in our societies,

Recognizing that an enabling economic environment should, inter alia, foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector and include efforts to further promote good corporate and public sector governance, to combat corruption in the public and private sectors and to promote the strengthening of and respect for the rule of law,

Noting that particular attention must be given, in the context of globalization, to the objective of protecting, promoting and enhancing the rights and welfare of women and girls, as stated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[2]

Taking note of the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled *A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All*[3] as a contribution to the international dialogue towards a fully inclusive and equitable globalization,

Noting the report of the Commission on the Private Sector and Development entitled *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

3. *Reaffirms also* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

4. *Invites* the international community, including all Member States, to devote special attention to improving resource flows for development, including public and private, foreign and domestic, to assist the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

5. *Stresses* that, in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity, while a

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[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Published by the International Labour Office, Geneva, 2004.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.III.B.4.

[5] A/59/312.

crucial task is to enhance the efficacy, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies and an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and in this regard stresses also that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

6. *Underlines* the fact that, in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus should be placed on identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection and that this requires efforts at both the national and international levels;

7. *Reiterates* that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance, both within individual countries and at the international level, sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions that are responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure, which are the basis for sustained growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, and that transparency in financial, monetary and trading systems and commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system are equally essential;

8. *Stresses* that improved coherence between national and international efforts and between the international monetary, financial and trading systems is fundamental for sound global economic governance; in this context reaffirms the commitment to improving the coherence between those systems in order to enhance their capacities to better respond to the needs of development and recognizes that the institutional dimension in terms of development is central; emphasizes that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda and that coherence between national development strategies, on the one hand, and international obligations and commitments, on the other, contributes to the creation of an enabling economic environment for development; and stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

9. *Stresses also* that development strategies have to be formulated with a view to minimizing the negative social impact of globalization and maximizing its positive impact, while ensuring that all groups of the population, in particular the poorest, benefit from it, and that at the international level, efforts have to converge on the means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

10. *Underlines* the fact that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e., the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations, that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

11. *Reaffirms* that education, employment creation and improvement of working conditions, which are some of the indispensable elements of poverty eradication, social integration, gender equality and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of national policies, and recognizes the need to promote employment that takes into account labour standards as defined in the relevant instruments of the International Labour Organization and other international instruments;

12. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, training, employment, technology and economic and financial resources, including credit, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

13. *Stresses* the importance of migration as a phenomenon accompanying increased globalization, including its impact on economies, and underlines further the need for greater coordination and cooperation among countries as well as relevant regional and international organizations;

14. *Recognizes* the special needs of the least developed countries, the small island developing States and the landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, and reaffirms continued support and assistance for their endeavours, particularly in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[6] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] and the Almaty Programme of Action;[8]

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization, with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

16. *Invites* all relevant agencies of the United Nations system, through, inter alia, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, within existing resources, to continue to review the impact of their work on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

17. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004,[9] which rededicates and recommits members to fulfilling the development dimensions of the Doha development agenda, which places the needs of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha work programme;[10]

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[6] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[9] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[10] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

18. *Stresses* the need to build an inclusive information society, which is intrinsically global in nature, and that therefore national efforts need to be supported by effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including the international financial institutions, in order, inter alia, to assist in bridging the digital divide, promoting access to information and communication technologies, creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development, and invites the World Summit on the Information Society to encourage all stakeholders in this regard;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on globalization and interdependence;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

United Nations A/RES/59/241

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 87 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/485/Add.2)]

59/241. International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,[1] in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[2] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the outcome documents of the twenty-fourth[5] and twenty-fifth[6] special sessions of the General Assembly,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/190 of 22 December 2003 and 58/208 of 23 December 2003, in which it decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session, bearing in mind that the purpose of the high-level dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[7] and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[6] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[7] Resolution 217 A (III).

Forms of Racial Discrimination,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10]

Noting the work undertaken under the International Migration Policy Programme by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the International Labour Office, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions, with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments to manage migration flows at the national and regional levels and thus foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

Noting also the ongoing efforts and recent activities within the United Nations system and the other intergovernmental activities and multilateral initiatives on international migration and development being undertaken, as well as the exchanges of information on the subject,

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[11] which entered into force in July 2003,

Welcoming the adoption of the special theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2006, which will be "International migration and development",[12]

Taking note of the views of the Member States on the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda, noting the low number of respondents to the survey of the Secretariat, and in this context inviting the Secretary-General to continue considering the issue,

Acknowledging the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

Aware of the fact that all countries are impacted by international migration, and hence stressing the crucial importance of dialogue and cooperation so as to better understand the international migration phenomenon, including its gender perspective, and to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

Realizing the benefits that international migration can bring to migrants, their families, the receiving societies and their communities of origin and the need for countries of origin, transit and destination to ensure that migrants, including migrant workers, are not subject to exploitation of any kind and the need to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families, in particular of women migrant workers, are respected and protected,

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[8] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol.1249, No.20378.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[11] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[12] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 5* (E/2004/25), chap. I.B, decision 2004/1.

Noting that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide a context for the effective integration of migrants, preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in receiving societies,

Aware that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, due in part to the uneven impact of the benefits of globalization and liberalization, have contributed to large flows of people between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

Recognizing that countries can be concurrently any combination of origin, transit and/or destination,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[15]

2. *Reconfirms* that the Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the 2006 high-level dialogue;

3. *Recognizes* the important contributions that international and regional efforts, including by the regional commissions, can provide to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development;

4. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the high-level dialogue;

5. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development goals and respect for all human rights;

7. *Encourages* Governments of countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination to increase cooperation on issues related to migration, and notes with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development, in particular in the context of regional cooperation;

8. *Invites* Governments, with the assistance of the international community, where appropriate, to seek to make the option of remaining in one's own country viable for all people, in particular through efforts to achieve sustainable development, leading to a better economic balance between developed and developing countries;

9. *Reaffirms* the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of the transfer of migrant remittances to developing countries, and welcomes the efforts of Governments and stakeholders in this regard;

[15] A/59/325.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/485/Add.3)*]

59/242. Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolution 58/205 of 23 December 2003 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin,

Recalling also the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[1] which underlined that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Emphasizing the need for solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and the need to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of domestic administration and public spending and the rule of law, to ensure full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and to eradicate corruption and build sound economic and social institutions,

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger, and economic and sustainable development,

Noting the particular concern of developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the return of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption to the countries from which they originated, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] in particular

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] Resolution 58/4, annex.

chapter V, in view of the importance that such assets can have to their sustainable development,

Recognizing the concern over the transfer and/or transaction of assets of illicit origin, and stressing the need to address this concern consistent with the principles of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recognizing also that the illicit acquisition of wealth can be particularly damaging to democratic institutions, national economies and the rule of law,

Convinced that a stable and transparent environment for national and international commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources, and recognizing that effective efforts at all levels to combat and avoid corruption in all its forms in all countries are essential elements of an improved national and international business environment,

Concerned about the links between corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Group of Eight with regard to fighting corruption and improving transparency, including the initiative of the Group of Eight to support with bilateral technical assistance those countries committed to a partnership to increase transparency, good governance and the rule of law, and welcoming also the efforts of those Member States that have entered into "Compacts to Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption" with the Group of Eight,

Noting with appreciation the holding of the High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Mérida, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December 2003,

Recalling its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and urged all States and competent regional economic organizations to sign and ratify it,

1. *Condemns* corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[3]

4. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations to sign, ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible in order to ensure its rapid entry into force;

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[4] A/59/203 and Add.1.

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms, including, inter alia, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws;

6. *Encourages* all Governments to prevent, combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicitly acquired assets, and to work for the prompt return of such assets through asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

7. *Further encourages* subregional and regional cooperation, where appropriate, in the efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

8. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

9. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate financial and human resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and further encourages the Office to give high priority to technical cooperation, upon request, inter alia, to promote and facilitate the signing and ratification, acceptance, approval or accession and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the early finalization, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, of the legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the Convention;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V, and formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting transparency and integrity in both the public and private sectors;

11. *Urges* all Member States, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption;

12. *Calls upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, welcomes the agreement to add anti-corruption as the tenth principle of the Global Compact, and emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability;

13. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to require financial institutions to properly implement comprehensive due diligence and vigilance programmes, consistent with the principles of the United Nations

Convention against Corruption and other applicable instruments, that could facilitate transparency and prevent the placement of illicitly acquired funds;

14. *Also encourages* Member States, relevant international organizations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to give prominence to 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/4;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the impact of corruption in all its forms, including on the scale of transfers of assets of illicit origin and the impact of corruption and such outflows on economic growth and sustainable development.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

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59/243. Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/187 of 22 December 1992, 48/181 of 21 December 1993, 49/106 of 19 December 1994, 51/175 of 6 December 1996, 53/179 of 15 December 1998, 55/191 of 20 December 2000 and 57/247 of 20 December 2002,

Reaffirming also the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy,

Welcoming the progress made in those countries towards market-oriented reforms and achieving macroeconomic and financial stability and economic growth, inter alia, through sound macroeconomic policies, good governance and the rule of law, and noting the need to sustain those positive trends,

Noting that in some economies in transition this progress has been slower, resulting in lower aggregate development levels and lower per capita income,

Stressing the importance of continued international assistance to countries with economies in transition to support their efforts towards market-oriented reforms, institution-building, infrastructure development and achieving macroeconomic and financial stability and economic growth, and to ensure that they are fully integrated into the world economy,

Recognizing, in particular, the need to enhance the capacity of those countries to utilize effectively the benefits of globalization, including those in the field of information and communication technologies, and to respond more adequately to its challenges,

Recognizing also the continuing need for favourable conditions for market access of exports from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with multilateral trade agreements,

Recognizing further the important role that foreign direct investment should play in those countries, and stressing the need to create an enabling environment, both domestically and internationally, to attract more foreign direct investment to those countries,

Recognizing the role that the private sector can play in the socio-economic development of those countries and their integration into the world economy, and

stressing the importance of fostering a favourable environment for private investment and entrepreneurship,

Noting the aspiration of the countries with economies in transition towards the further development of regional and interregional cooperation,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement General Assembly resolutions on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

2. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, in collaboration with relevant non-United Nations multilateral and regional institutions, to continue to conduct analytical activities and provide policy advice and targeted and substantial technical assistance to the Governments of the countries with economies in transition aimed at strengthening the social, legal and political framework for completing market-oriented reforms, supporting national development priorities with a view to sustaining the positive trends and reversing any declines in the economic and social development of those countries;

3. *Emphasizes* in this regard the importance of the further integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy, taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation");[4]

4. *Stresses* the need to focus international assistance to countries with economies in transition on those facing particular difficulties in socio-economic development, implementing market-oriented reforms and meeting internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and welcomes efforts made by countries with economies in transition to improve governance and institutional capabilities in order to use aid more effectively;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by countries with economies in transition in implementing policies that promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including, inter alia, by promoting competition, regulatory reform, respect for property rights and expeditious contract enforcement, and calls upon the United Nations system to highlight the successful models as good practices;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

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[1] A/59/301.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

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59/244. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[2] and its resolutions 57/276 of 20 December 2002 and 58/228 of 23 December 2003 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recognizing the importance of the review of the progress achieved towards meeting the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as they address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010",[3]

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2004/66 of 5 November 2004 on the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and 2004/67 of 5 November 2004 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixth session,

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[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] A/59/3, chap. III, para. 49. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

Taking note further of the *Least Developed Countries Report, 2004*,[4]

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty in the least developed countries will require, inter alia, steps to empower the poor, unleash their entrepreneurial skills and allow them to access, develop and use their assets,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

1. *Reiterates its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010;[2]

2. *Urges* the least developed countries and their bilateral and multilateral development partners to increase concerted efforts and speedy measures for meeting the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in a timely manner;

3. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to engage the United Nations Development Group's team leaders, consistent with their respective mandates, in the coordinated implementation of activities of the Programme of Action;

4. *Invites* the 2005 high-level event, in accordance with the modalities to be set by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, to address the special needs of the least developed countries, while reviewing the progress made in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

5. *Decides* to hold the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in 2006 within the General Assembly during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, with modalities to be decided upon;

6. *Decides also* to consider at its sixtieth session the modalities for conducting such a comprehensive review;

7. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to establish a specific trust fund for the travel and subsistence of two representatives from each least developed country to attend the annual review of the Programme of Action; the trust fund should be funded by voluntary contributions;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eleventh session to conduct analyses through the *Least*

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[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.D.27.

[5] A/59/94-E/2004/77.

Developed Countries Report, 2004[8] on the causes of the decline in the share of least developed countries in world trade and the linkages between trade, growth and poverty reduction, with a view to identifying long-term solutions to the problem, as expressed in paragraph 34 of the São Paulo Consensus,[9] and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to conduct an analysis of the role that enterprise development can play in alleviating poverty in least developed countries and to recommend measures the Governments of least developed countries can take to promote the development of their private sector;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/66 in order to support countries graduating from the list of least developed countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in an analytical and results-oriented way by placing emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.

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[8] TD/412, part II.

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Agenda item 88 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/486/Add.2)*]

59/245. Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/180 of 21 December 2001, 57/242 of 20 December 2002 and 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which Heads of State and Government recognized the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their particular development needs and to help them to overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Recognizing also that landlocked developing countries, with their small and vulnerable economies, are among the poorest of developing countries, and noting that, of the thirty-one landlocked developing countries, sixteen are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[2] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[3]

Recalling also the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),[4] an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development as most landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

Taking note of the ministerial communique adopted at the Fifth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held on 27 September 2004 at United Nations Headquarters,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[6]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with applicable rules of international law;

3. *Reaffirms also* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Invites* Member States, organizations of the United Nations system as well as other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and multilateral financial and development institutions to implement the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action;[3]

5. *Invites* donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, and, in this regard, to consider, inter alia, improving the availability and optimal use of different transport modes and intermodal efficiency along transport corridors;

6. *Recognizes* that most transit countries are themselves developing countries often of broadly similar economic structure and beset by similar scarcity of resources, including the lack of adequate transit transport infrastructure;

7. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor

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[2] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

[4] A/57/304, annex.

[5] A/C.2/59/2.

[6] A/59/208.

countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

8. *Stresses* the need for the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus[7] adopted at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June 2004, in particular paragraphs 66 and 84 thereof, by the relevant international organizations and donors in a multi-stakeholder approach, and emphasizes, in this regard, that the examination of issues relating to the trade of small, vulnerable economies, and the framing of responses to these trade-related issues to facilitate their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system should be actively pursued consistent with the Doha work programme,[8] taking into consideration the particular needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries;

9. *Invites* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, and encourages them to continue their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular the Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency and the Special Programme on the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue its technical assistance activities and analytical work related to transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Declaration,[2] to continue its cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and also requests the Office to continue to carry out advocacy work to mobilize international awareness and focus attention on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

12. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures, within existing resources, to provide the Office with adequate resources so as to allow it to effectively carry out its added mandate as stipulated in the Almaty Programme of Action;

13. *Invites* donor countries and the international financial and development institutions to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the

[7] TD/412, part II.

[8] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

14. *Invites* the 2005 high-level event to address the special needs of the landlocked developing countries, within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, in accordance with the modalities to be set by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, while assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation";

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 89 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/487/Add.1)*]

59/246. Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997, 53/197 of 15 December 1998 and 58/221 of 23 December 2003,

Recognizing that microcredit and microfinance programmes have succeeded in generating productive self-employment and proved to be an effective tool in assisting people to overcome poverty and reducing their vulnerability to crisis, and have led to their growing participation, in particular the participation of women, in the mainstream economic and political processes of society,

Welcoming the efforts made in the field of property rights, and noting that an enabling environment at all levels, including transparent regulatory systems and competitive markets, foster the mobilization of resources and access to finance for people living in poverty,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments, such as credit, savings and other financial products and services, in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Recognizing the need to create inclusive financial sectors in order to facilitate access for people living in poverty, especially women, to microcredit and microfinance so as to enable them to undertake microenterprises to generate employment and contribute to achieving self-empowerment, and to enhance their ability to increase income, build assets and mitigate vulnerability in times of hardship,

Noting that the availability of microcredit and microfinance to people living in poverty, especially women, can support entrepreneurship and spur the development of microenterprises, providing goods, services and income to the poor, thus raising incomes and fostering equitable growth,

Recalling its resolution 53/197, by which it proclaimed 2005 the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit and microfinance programmes in all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Encouraging the holding and supporting of regional, subregional and national events on the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005,

Noting the ongoing efforts by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund in jointly coordinating the activities of the United Nations system regarding the preparation and observance of the Year, and noting also the ongoing efforts of public and private development agencies, including the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, on microcredit and microfinance,

Noting also that the international community is observing the period 1997–2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) and preparations for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the launching of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;

3. *Emphasizes* that the observance of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance financial sectors that support sustainable pro-poor financial services in all countries;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of scaling up microcredit and other microfinance instruments, using the Year as a platform to find ways of enhancing development impact and sustainability through the increased dissemination of data and sharing of best practices and lessons learned among microcredit and microfinance institutions, and welcomes the ongoing efforts of United Nations regional organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies responsible for operational activities related to development in promoting microcredit and microfinance institutions, inter alia, supporting the development of entrepreneurship;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate, including through making voluntary contributions, in observing the Year, to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit and microfinance;

6. *Recognizes* that access to microcredit and microfinance can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

7. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking policies to facilitate the expansion of microcredit and microfinance institutions in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services, including the identification and development of mechanisms to promote sustainable access to financial services, the removal of institutional and regulatory obstacles and the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering such financial services to the poor;

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[1] A/59/326 and Add.1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

8. *Also invites* Member States to consider developing and promoting regulatory guidance and standards to ensure effectiveness in management, financial reporting, internal auditing, domestic supervision and accountability among microfinance institutions;

9. *Decides* to devote one plenary meeting at its sixty-first session to the consideration of the outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit, with a view to broadening and deepening the discussion about microcredit and microfinance;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, and on the implementation of the present resolution, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session under the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)".

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22 December 2004

General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/487/Add.1)*]

59/247. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002 and 58/222 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3]

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[4] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[5]

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected groups, in particular in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

Welcoming the initiative launched by the Presidents of Brazil, Chile and France and the Prime Minister of Spain, with the support of the Secretary-General, to convene in New York on 20 September 2004, the Summit of World Leaders for Action against Hunger and Poverty,

Noting the report of the Commission on Private Sector and Development entitled *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*,[6]

Reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

3. *Underlines* the fact that each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and that concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

4. *Acknowledges* that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including for private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and realize a rise in living standards;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the contributions and assistance of developing countries to the other developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation in order to achieve development and eradicate poverty;

6. *Recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

7. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development;

Global response for the eradication of poverty

8. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and calls for the full and effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;[2]

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[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.III.B.4.

[7] A/59/326 and Add.1.

9. *Reaffirms* that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development; that, in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries; that, to that end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries; that efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained, with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes; and that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development;

10. *Also reaffirms* that good governance at the national level is essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

11. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June 2004, and the adoption of The Spirit of São Paulo,[8] and the São Paulo Consensus;[9]

12. *Recognizes* the major role that trade plays as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, and welcomes the adoption by the General Council of the World Trade Organization of its decision of 1 August 2004,[10] in which the members rededicated and recommitted themselves to fulfilling the development dimensions of the Doha development agenda, which places the needs and interests of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha work programme;[11]

13. *Also recognizes* that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and economic and sustainable development;

14. *Underlines* the fact that, together with coherent and consistent domestic policies, international cooperation is essential in supplementing and supporting the efforts of developing countries to utilize their domestic resources for development and poverty eradication and in ensuring that they will be able to achieve the development goals as envisioned in the Millennium Declaration;

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[8] TD/412, part I.

[9] Ibid., part II.

[10] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[11] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

15. *Welcomes* the recent increase in official development assistance, and reiterates that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally;

16. *Stresses* the importance of enhanced and predictable financing to ensure the sustainability of the development and poverty eradication efforts of developing countries;

17. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[12] encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

18. *Recalls* the decision to give further consideration to the subject of possible innovative and additional sources of financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and external, taking into account international efforts, contributions and discussions, within the overall inclusive framework of the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development;

19. *Recognizes* that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

20. *Also recognizes* that creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in this regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards these objectives;

21. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential

[12] See A/CONF.191/13.

terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries;

22. *Recognizes* the crucial role that microfinance and microcredit could play in the eradication of poverty, the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of vulnerable groups and the development of rural communities, invites Member States to consider undertaking policies to facilitate the expansion of microfinance and microcredit institutions in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services, including the identification and development of mechanisms to promote sustainable access to financial services, the removal of institutional and regulatory obstacles and the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering such financial services to the poor;

23. *Also recognizes* the potential of information and communication technologies to serve as a powerful tool for development and poverty eradication and to help the international community to maximize the benefits of globalization, and welcomes in this regard the holding of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society from 10 to 12 December 2003 in Geneva and the offer of Tunisia to host the second phase in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;

Policies for the eradication of poverty

24. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[13] taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as education, the development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment and natural resources, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, energy and migration and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

25. *Underlines*, in this context, the importance of further integration of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the national development strategies and plans, including the poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, and calls upon the international community to continue to support developing countries in the implementation of these development strategies and plans;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt those best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

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[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

27. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

28. *Also reaffirms* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development;

29. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[14] and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education by 2015;

30. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious, contagious diseases on human development, economic growth, food security and poverty reduction efforts in all regions, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to combating those diseases;

31. *Also recognizes* that HIV/AIDS continues to exact a devastating toll on individuals and families, in particular women and girls, and that in the hardest-hit countries it threatens decades of health, economic and social progress, reducing life expectancy, slowing economic growth, deepening poverty and contributing to chronic food shortages; that urgent action is needed to address gender inequality and economic dependency and poverty; and that addressing HIV/AIDS is therefore an important component of poverty eradication and a key requisite when working to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

32. *Emphasizes* the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in that regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

33. *Recognizes* that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, expresses its concern at the rapid growth in the number of slum-dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, stresses that, unless urgent and effective measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum-dwellers, who constitute one third of the world's urban population, will continue to increase, and emphasizes the need for increased efforts with a view to significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020;

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[14] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

34. *Encourages* Governments to support the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as important tools for, inter alia, promoting administration of land and property rights, in accordance with national circumstances, and enhancing access to affordable credit by the urban poor;

35. *Recognizes* that the eradication of rural poverty and hunger is crucial for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that rural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies;

Specific initiatives in the fight against poverty

36. *Recognizes* the important potential contribution of the World Solidarity Fund to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day and the proportion of the people who suffer from hunger;

37. *Takes note* of efforts to define the strategy of the World Solidarity Fund and to mobilize resources to enable it to start its activities, and invites Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to the Fund;

38. *Recalls* that in the Millennium Declaration, the Heads of State and Government, inter alia, identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values that should underlie relations between peoples in the twenty-first century, and in this regard decides to consider at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly the issue of proclaiming 20 December of each year International Human Solidarity Day;

39. *Invites* Governments and relevant stakeholders to utilize entrepreneurship, taking fully into account national interests, development strategies and priorities to contribute to poverty eradication;

Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

40. *Stresses*, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent's marginalization;

41. *Reaffirms its support* for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[15] encourages further efforts in the implementation of the commitments contained therein in the political, economic and social fields, and calls upon the Member States and the international community, and invites the United Nations system, to continue to support the implementation of the Partnership, the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnerships with the international community, in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the Partnership;

[15] A/57/304, annex.

42. *Takes note* of the Plan of Action for Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa adopted at the extraordinary summit of the African Union on employment and poverty alleviation, held in Ouagadougou from 3 to 9 September 2004,[16] and notes the role of the International Labour Organization in assisting the African countries in implementing the Plan of Action adopted at the summit;

43. *Calls upon* the Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration[17] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[18] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

44. *Stresses* the vulnerabilities of the small island developing States, reiterates the importance of international support for the full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[19] supports in this regard the holding of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005, and looks forward to its outcomes;

45. *Recognizes* the special problems and needs of the landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries calls for, in this regard, the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[20] and stresses the need for the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus,[9] adopted in São Paulo, Brazil, on 18 June 2004 at the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular paragraphs 66 and 84 thereof, by the relevant international organizations and donors in a multi-stakeholder approach;

The United Nations and the fight against poverty

46. *Calls for* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which provides a comprehensive basis for the follow-up to the outcomes of those conferences and summits and contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular the eradication of poverty, and stresses the importance of the 2005 high-level event to be held at the

[16] African Union, document EXT/ASSEMBLY/AU/4 (III) Rev.4.

[17] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[18] Ibid., chap. II.

[19] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[20] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

commencement of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, as decided by the Assembly in its resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004;

47. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

48. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

49. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)".

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 March 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 89 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/487/Add.2)*]

59/248. World Survey on the role of women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/210 of 22 December 1999 and 58/206 of 23 December 2003 and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "World Survey on the Role of Women in Development",[1] which focuses on women and international migration, and decides to consider the report at its sixtieth session under the sub-item entitled "Women in development";

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, noting that the survey should continue to focus on selected emerging development themes that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels, to be identified at its sixtieth session.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

[1] A/59/287 and Add.1.

General Assembly

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7 March 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 89 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/487/Add.3)*]

59/249. Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, 49/108 of 19 December 1994, 51/170 of 16 December 1996, 53/177 of 15 December 1998, 55/187 of 20 December 2000 and 57/243 of 20 December 2002 on industrial development cooperation,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1]

Reaffirming the outcomes of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001,[2] the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[3] the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[4] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[5]

Recognizing the role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector, and underlining the importance of the benefits of foreign direct investment in that process,

Recognizing also the importance of the transfer of technology to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition as an effective means of international cooperation in the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[3] A/CONF.191/13.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

Taking note of the corporate strategy of the United Nations Indu Development Organization, which aims at, inter alia, promoting productivity g as a means of supporting the achievement of the internationally agreed develo goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the mea being taken to operationalize this strategy,

Taking note also of the signing of the cooperation agreement betwee United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Na Development Programme on 23 September 2004 and that the agreement should to the improvement of the field presence of the United Nations Indu Development Organization and a better fulfilment of its primary objective, wh to promote and accelerate industrial development in the developing countries retaining its identity, visibility and core competencies, and noting that it establ inter alia, a basis for both institutions to develop joint technical coope programmes in support of private-sector development in developing countries,

Taking note further of the signing of a memorandum of technical coope between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the W Trade Organization, at Cancun, Mexico, on 10 September 2003, aiming at the development and implementation of trade-related technical cooperation programm

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and welcome conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* that industrialization is an essential factor in the sust economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty of develo countries and countries with economies in transition as well as in the creati productive employment, income generation and the facilitation of social integra including the integration of women into the development process;

3. *Stresses* the critical role of productive capacity-building and indu development for the achievement of the internationally agreed development g including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[5]

4. *Takes note* of the comprehensive review of the activities of the U Nations Industrial Development Organization conducted in line with its corp strategy, which has enabled it to become a more focused, effective and effi organization, especially for developing countries and countries with economi transition, capable of delivering concrete outcomes and providing valu contributions to the achievement of the internationally agreed development g including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

5. *Emphasizes* the necessity of favourable national and internat measures for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges Governments to adopt and to implement development policies and strategi unleash the productivity growth potential through private-sector development diffusion of environmentally sound and emerging technologies, invest promotion, enhanced access to markets and the effective use of official develop assistance to enable developing countries to achieve the internationally ag development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, a make this process sustainable;

[6] A/59/138.

6. *Underlines* the importance of industrial development cooperation and of a positive investment and business climate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the organization of the Global Biotechnology Forum, held in Concepción, Chile, from 2 to 5 March 2004, which was organized jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Government of Chile, with support from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and takes note of decision IDB.28/Dec.6 of the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;[7]

8. *Confirms* the contribution of industry to social development, especially in the context of the linkages between industry and agriculture, and notes that, within the totality of these interlinkages, industry serves as a powerful source of employment generation, income creation and social integration required for the eradication of poverty;

9. *Calls for* the continuing use of official development assistance for industrial development in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, calls upon donor countries and recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of the official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation and to support the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote industrial development cooperation among themselves, and underlines the importance of mobilizing funds for industrial development at the country level, including private funding and funds from relevant development finance institutions;

10. *Also calls for*, in this regard, the continuing use of all other resources, including private and public, foreign and domestic resources, for industrial development in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

11. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support for the sustainable industrial development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to carry out its central role in the field of industrial development according to its mandate;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to enhance its effectiveness, relevance and development impact by, inter alia, strengthening its cooperation with other institutions of the United Nations system at all levels;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to participate actively in coordination at the field level through the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and sector-wide approaches;

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[7] See GC.11/2, annex I.

14. *Emphasizes* the need to promote the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, including by means of training, education and skills enhancement, with a special focus on agro-industry as a provider of livelihoods for rural communities;

15. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to promote, within its mandate, the development of competitive industries in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as in landlocked developing countries;

16. *Reaffirms* the need to support the survival and expansion of industrial manufacturing activity in developing countries, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to improve its technical cooperation activities through, inter alia, the areas of technology diffusion and capacity-building for market access and development;

17. *Welcomes* the active role played by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the High-Level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and encourages it to continue promoting enhanced coordination and coherence within the United Nations system with a view to reinforcing the quality and relevance of the United Nations in the field of economic development;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to facilitate industrial development with emphasis on the priority areas outlined in its medium-term programme framework, 2004-2007;

19. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to increase its contributions to achieve the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[8] with a view to further strengthening the industrialization process in Africa;

20. *Also encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to develop further its global forum capacity according to its mandate, with the aim of enhancing, in the context of the globalization process, a common understanding of global and regional industrial sector issues and their impact on poverty eradication and sustainable development, and calls for further strengthening of the demand-driven integrated programme approach at the field level;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

[8] A/57/304, annex.

General Assembly

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14 March 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 90 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/488/Add.1)*]

59/250. Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 53/192 of 15 December 1998 and 56/201 of 21 December 2001, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/29 of 25 July 2002, 2003/3 of 11 July 2003 and 2004/5 of 12 July 2004, and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policy orientations are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[1] including the development and poverty eradication goals contained therein, and recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and their importance for international development cooperation, in particular for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Noting, in this context, the activities of the United Nations funds and programmes aimed at providing technical assistance to recipient countries, in response to their national economic and social needs and priorities, including poverty eradication and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to

[1] See resolution 55/2.

development, for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and stressing the need for those activities to be undertaken at the request of interested recipient Governments strictly within the respective mandates of the United Nations funds and programmes, which should receive increased contributions from donor countries,

Recognizing that the transition from relief to development represents a complex challenge as regards the universal achievement of the MDGs,[2]

Reiterating that developing countries are responsible for their own development processes, and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, in assisting developing countries in their national development efforts,

Recognizing that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition and other recipient countries,

Recognizing also that new technologies, including information and communication technologies, present an opportunity to accelerate development, especially in developing countries, and noting that the access to those technologies is uneven and that a digital divide still prevails,

Reaffirming the need to ensure, in a coherent and timely manner, the full implementation of all the elements of its resolutions 44/211, 47/199, 50/120, 53/192 and 56/201 and the parts of its resolution 52/12 B relevant to operational activities for development, which should be considered an integral part of the present resolution,

Reiterating the importance of the development of national capacities to eradicate poverty and pursue sustained economic growth and sustainable development as a central goal of the development cooperation of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that new trends in development assistance, including sector-wide approaches and budget support, pose challenges to the United Nations, and stressing that the United Nations has a role to play in assisting developing countries to manage the new aid modalities,

Noting the advances that the United Nations development system is making in the area of coordination, including in the implementation of resolution 56/201,

Encouraging the governing bodies of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of their monitoring functions in relation to policies and strategies, medium-term plans, multi-year funding frameworks and operational activities, including those relating to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

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[2] The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

I

Introduction

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

3. *Urges* all Member States to pursue the full implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and recognizes the positive contribution that these can make in providing direction to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in accordance with national development efforts and priorities;

4. *Recognizes* that the strength of the United Nations operational system lies in its legitimacy, at the country level, as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both recipient countries and donor countries;

5. *Stresses* that national Governments have the primary responsibility for their countries' development, and recognizes the importance of national ownership of development programmes;

6. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

7. *Emphasizes also* that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be valued and assessed on the basis of their impact on the recipient countries as contributions to enhance their capacity to pursue poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to highlight best practices, where these can inform national efforts to implement policies that promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, inter alia, through the rule of law and the strengthening of effective, efficient, transparent and accountable systems for mobilizing resources;

9. *Decides* that, with the agreement of the host country, the United Nations development system should assist national Governments in creating an enabling environment in which the links between national Governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are involved in the development process are strengthened, with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems in accordance with national policies and priorities;

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[1] A/59/84-E/2004/53, A/59/85-E/2004/68, A/59/386 and A/59/387.

10. *Stresses* that the purpose of reform is to make the United Nations development system more efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, on the basis of their national development strategies, and stresses also that reform efforts should enhance organizational efficiency and achieve concrete development results;

11. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to respond to national development plans, policies and priorities, which constitute the only viable frame of reference for programming their operational activities at the country level, and to pursue full integration of the operational activities for development at the country-level with national planning and programming, under the leadership of national Governments, at all stages of the process, while ensuring the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders at the national level;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General, through the members of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as appropriate, to enhance the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system at the country level;

13. *Recognizes* that strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, along with a significant increase in resources and an expansion of its resource base on a continuous, more predictable and assured basis;

II

Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

14. *Emphasizes* that increasing financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the MDGs,[2] and in this regard recognizes the mutually reinforcing links between increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development through operational activities for development and the overall resourcing of the United Nations development system;

15. *Emphasizes also* that funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should focus on long-term development challenges based on national development strategies;

16. *Notes with concern* that the United Nations development system has not benefited commensurately from recent increases in official development assistance, despite the additional tasks entrusted to the United Nations system in the implementation of and follow-up to internationally agreed goals;

17. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in this regard notes with appreciation that core contributions to United Nations funds and programmes have begun to increase again over the last three years;

18. *Calls upon* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United

Nations development system, in particular its funds and programmes, and wherever possible, to contribute on a multi-year basis;

19. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[4] encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;[5]

20. *Notes* the increase in non-core resources as a mechanism to supplement the means of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which contributes to an increase in total resources, while recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources and that unearmarked contributions are vital for the coherence and harmonization of the operational activities for development;

21. *Invites* the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations development system to address systematically the funding of their operational activities and to explore, within the context of their multi-year planning and related financial frameworks, where appropriate, additional sources of financial support and alternative funding modalities so as to secure, on a predictable, continuous and sustained basis, the critical mass of resources required to ensure adequate functioning and pursuit of long-term development objectives;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve his annual statistical compendium to the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council by adding a multi-year perspective, fully incorporating available information and statistics;

23. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to undertake triennially, as of 2006, a comprehensive review of trends and perspectives in funding for development cooperation;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to explore various funding options for increasing financing for operational activities for development of the United Nations system and to examine ways to enhance the predictability, long-term stability, reliability and adequacy of funding for the operational activities for development, including through the identification of possible new funding sources, as a follow-up to his report,[6] while preserving the advantages of the current funding modalities, and to submit a report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2005;

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[4] See A/CONF.191/13.

[5] See paragraph 42 of the Monterrey Consensus (see *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), annex).

[6] A/59/387.

25. *Recognizes* the urgent and specific needs of low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries, and stresses the need to continue to assist those countries through the existing institutions and funding mechanisms of the United Nations development system;

III

Capacity-building

26. *Recognizes* that capacity development and ownership of national development strategies are essential for the achievement of the MDGs,[2] and calls upon United Nations organizations to provide further support to the efforts of developing countries to establish and/or maintain effective national institutions and to support the implementation and, as necessary, the devising of national strategies for capacity-building;

27. *Urges* all organizations of the United Nations development system to intensify inter-agency sharing of information at the system-wide level on good practices and experiences gained, results achieved, benchmarks and indicators, monitoring and evaluation criteria concerning their capacity-building activities;

28. *Encourages* all organizations of the United Nations development system to include reporting on their capacity-building activities in their annual reports to their respective governing bodies;

29. *Requests* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to analyse the capacity development efforts of the United Nations development system and to make recommendations on measures necessary to enhance their effectiveness, including through the improvement of the assessment and measurement of results;

30. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations to further strengthen the capacity of developing countries to better utilize the various aid modalities, including system-wide approaches and budget support;

31. *Also calls upon* United Nations organizations to adopt measures that ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities, and reiterates that the United Nations development system should use, to the fullest extent possible, national plans and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in the implementation of operational activities;

32. *Stresses* that developing countries, in order to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, should have access to new and emerging technologies, including information and communication technologies, which requires technology transfer, technical cooperation and the building and nurturing of scientific and technological capacity to participate in the development and adaptation of these technologies to local conditions, and in this regard urges Member States and the United Nations system to ensure the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to developing countries;

33. *Encourages* the United Nations development system to support the national development strategies and plans of countries with economies in transition that face continuing difficulties in economic and social development, specifically to assist them in addressing the challenges of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

IV

Transaction costs and efficiency

34. *Invites* the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations system actively involved in development cooperation activities and their respective management to adopt harmonization and simplification measures, with a view to achieving a significant reduction in the administrative and procedural burden on the organizations and their national partners that derives from the preparation and implementation of operational activities;

35. *Notes* the progress achieved in the area of simplification and harmonization as defined in section VI of resolution 56/201, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Group, and calls upon the funds, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to continue to implement the simplification and harmonization agenda by taking further steps to enhance and ensure the sustainability of that process;

36. *Requests* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to examine ways to further simplify their rules and procedures and, in this context, to accord the issue of simplification and harmonization high priority and to take concrete steps in the following areas: rationalization of country presence through common premises and co-location of members of United Nations country teams; implementation of the joint office model; common shared support services, including security, information technology, telecommunications, travel, banking and administrative and financial procedures, including for procurement; harmonization of the principles of cost recovery policies, including that of full cost recovery; alignment of the regional technical support structures and regional bureaux at headquarters level, including their regional coverage; as well as further simplification and harmonization measures;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in full consultation with all members of the United Nations Development Group, through the Executive Committee of the Development Group, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session in 2005, a programme of work for the full implementation of the above-mentioned actions, to be completed before the end of 2007, including benchmarks, responsibilities and provisions to phase out redundant rules and procedures, as well as a timetable to monitor the progress made towards meeting these targets;

38. *Invites* the executive boards and governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to assess regularly the progress achieved in the area of simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures;

39. *Requests* the funds and programmes to provide, in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, specific information on the progress achieved in implementing the above-mentioned agenda;

40. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group to consult regularly with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on all activities undertaken to implement the above;

V

Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities for development

A. Common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework

41. *Requests* the United Nations system to conduct the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes as efforts to improve the support for national development priorities and policies, and stresses that full governmental ownership, participation and leadership is required at all stages of those processes;

42. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by the United Nations system in the context of the improved functioning of the resident coordinator system, including through the common country assessment and the Framework, in order to achieve greater country-level programmatic coherence within the system and to foster teamwork among the organizations of the system, in particular those represented at the country level;

43. *Recognizes* that, in spite of these efforts, participation of the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system in country-level operational activities for development and coordination mechanisms still differs in level, quality and intensity, and that for some organizations it is inadequate, and in this context calls upon the United Nations development system to improve its country-level coordination so as to optimize its support to national development efforts, at the request of national authorities;

44. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to draw from its accumulated experience in all pertinent economic, social and other domains and to facilitate the access of developing countries to the services available within the system on the basis of its comparative advantages and expertise;

45. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to foster an inclusive approach in promoting inter-agency collaboration, both at the country and headquarters levels, and requests the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group, to take the necessary steps to secure a more participatory involvement of the United Nations development system in the country-level operations and their coordination mechanisms, including through promotion, decentralization, the delegation of authority and multi-year programming, which will facilitate their participation in country-level coordination mechanisms;

46. *Stresses* the importance of the common country assessment as the common analytical tool of the United Nations system at the country level, including the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations agencies with no country representation or limited country-level presence, which should contribute their accumulated analytical and normative experience so as to enable the use of all capacities available within the United Nations system;

47. *Notes* the progress made by the United Nations operational system in developing and using the common country assessment, and stresses that the formulation of the assessment is meant to be short, light and flexible;

48. *Underlines* the complementarity of the common country assessment to other analytical processes, and urges all funds, programmes and agencies to avoid

duplication by utilizing, to the maximum extent possible, the common country assessment as their own country-level analytical tool;

49. *Reiterates* that the ownership and full participation of national authorities in the preparation and development of the Framework are key to guaranteeing that it responds to the national development plans and poverty reduction strategies of the countries concerned, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the Framework and its results matrix where applicable, as the common programming tool for country-level contributions of the funds and programmes towards achieving the MDGs,[2] to be fully endorsed and countersigned by the national authorities;

50. *Notes* the potential of the Framework and its results matrix as the collective, coherent and integrated programming and monitoring framework for the operations of the United Nations development system at the country level, bringing increased opportunities for joint initiatives, including joint programming, and urges the United Nations development system to fully utilize such opportunities in the interest of enhancing aid efficiency and aid effectiveness;

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, in consultation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that United Nations Development Group agencies with multi-year programmes as well as the entities of the Secretariat that carry out operational activities in pursuit of the MDGs,[2] fully align their respective programming and monitoring with the Framework, as well as take further steps to harmonize their programming cycles and to synchronize them as far as possible with the national programming instruments, in particular the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

52. *Invites* the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions to explore further ways to enhance cooperation, collaboration and coordination, including through the greater harmonization of strategic frameworks, instruments, modalities and partnership arrangements, in full accordance with the priorities of the recipient Governments, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of ensuring, under the leadership of national authorities, greater consistency between the strategic frameworks developed by the United Nations funds and programmes, agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, while maintaining the institutional integrity and organizational mandates of each organization and the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

B. Resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams

53. *Reaffirms* that the resident coordinator system, within the framework of national ownership, has a key role to play in the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations system at the country level, including in the formulation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and is a key instrument for the efficient and effective coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to enhance support to the resident coordinator system;

54. *Urges* the United Nations system to provide further financial, technical and organizational support for the resident coordinator system, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the United Nations

Development Group to ensure that resident coordinators have the necessary resources to fulfil their role effectively;

55. *Welcomes* the improvements in the selection process and training of the resident coordinators, and urges the members of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, in full consultation with the members of the Development Group, to develop a procedure for the common assessment of the performance of resident coordinators by all members of the United Nations country teams;

56. *Notes* that coordination activities, while beneficial, represent transaction costs that are borne by both recipient countries and the organizations of the United Nations system, and emphasizes the need for their continuous evaluation and for an analysis and assessment of costs compared with the total programme expenditures for operational activities for development in order to ensure maximum efficiency and feasibility;

57. *Reaffirms* that the utilization of advanced information and communication technologies by the United Nations system could contribute to enhanced information-sharing and knowledge management, resulting in more effective delivery of development cooperation by the United Nations system, and encourages United Nations organizations to intensify their efforts to expand the use of information and communication technologies and to further harmonize their information technology platforms;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in full consultation with all agencies of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as appropriate, to develop, by the end of 2005, a comprehensive accountability framework for resident coordinators to exercise oversight of the design and implementation of the Framework, in a fully participatory manner, in support and under the leadership of national Governments;

59. *Underscores* the fact that the resident coordinator system is owned by the United Nations development system as a whole and that its functioning should be participatory, collegial and accountable;

60. *Also underscores* the fact that the management of the resident coordinator system continues to be firmly anchored in the United Nations Development Programme, while recognizing that many resident coordinators, especially in countries with large country teams, complex coordination situations or in situations of complex emergencies, lack the capacity to address equally well all tasks inherent to their functions, and in this regard requests that in such cases the United Nations Development Programme appoint, within the existing programming arrangement, a country director to run its core activities, including fund-raising, so as to assure that resident coordinators are fully available for their tasks;

61. *Requests* that, when raising funds, resident coordinators concentrate on raising funds for the whole of the United Nations at the country level;

VI

Country-level capacity of the United Nations system

62. *Reaffirms* the principle, as contained in resolutions 44/211 and 47/199, that the country-level presence of the United Nations system should be tailored to meet the specific development needs of recipient countries, as required by their country programmes;

63. *Emphasizes* the need for the range and level of skills and expertise assembled by the United Nations system at the country level to be commensurate with that needed to deliver on the priorities specified in each country's United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in line with the national development strategies and plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, and to correspond to the technical backstopping and capacity-building needs and requirements of the developing countries;

64. *Stresses* the principle that no core function of the Secretariat can be outsourced to operational bodies, in particular at the field level, without proper financial compensation;

65. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to consider means to strengthen their country-level capacities, including through complementary measures at their headquarters;

VII

Evaluation of operational activities for development

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assess the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including, in particular, by assessing the effective use of all capacities available to provide a comprehensive and flexible response to the demand of developing countries for development support, and to report on the results of this assessment in the context of the next triennial policy review at its sixty-second session;

67. *Reaffirms* that the effectiveness of operational activities should be assessed by their impact on the poverty eradication efforts, economic growth and sustainable development of recipient countries;

68. *Underlines* the fact that future assessments of the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should make full use of the data and expertise available within the system and from national authorities in full collaboration with national stakeholders and United Nations entities;

69. *Recognizes* the need to optimize the linking of evaluation to performance in the achievement of development goals, and encourages the United Nations development system to strengthen its evaluation activities, with particular focus on development results, including through the effective use of the results matrix of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the systematic use of monitoring and evaluation approaches at the system-wide level and the promotion of collaborative approaches to the evaluation, including joint evaluations, and further encourages the United Nations Evaluation Group, under the aegis of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to make further progress in system-wide collaboration on evaluation, in particular harmonization and simplification of methodologies, norms, standards and cycles of evaluation;

70. *Strongly encourages* country-level evaluations of the Framework at the end of the programming cycle, based on the results matrix of the Framework, with full participation and leadership of the recipient Government;

71. *Recognizes* that national Governments have primary responsibility for coordinating external assistance, including that from the United Nations system, and evaluating the impact of its contribution to national priorities;

72. *Requests* the United Nations development system to conduct evaluations of its operations at the country level, in close consultation with national Governments, and in this context stresses the need to assist Governments in the development of national evaluation capacities through, inter alia, better use of lessons learned from past activities at the country level;

73. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to consider, where appropriate, applying lessons learned in the course of monitoring and evaluation to programming processes;

74. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to implement their global, regional and country-level activities in accordance with their mandates and the priorities of the recipient countries, urges their governing bodies to ensure that the activities, responsibilities and operational strategies of each fund and programme are consistent with their mandates and the overall policy guidance set forth by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and to report on these issues within the context of the annual reports submitted to the Council, and requests the Secretary-General to include an assessment of these issues in the report on the triennial comprehensive policy review prepared for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;

75. *Requests* that the United Nations Development Programme conduct full consultation with the Member States prior to issuing global and regional flagship reports, in accordance with, inter alia, the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 57/264 of 20 December 2002;

VIII

Regional dimensions

76. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, its regional commissions and other regional and subregional entities, as appropriate and consistent with their mandates, to intensify their cooperation and adopt more collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives at the request of recipient countries, in particular through closer collaboration within the resident coordinator system and by improving mechanisms for access to the technical capacities of the United Nations system at the regional and subregional levels;

77. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to give greater and more systematic consideration to the regional and subregional dimensions of development cooperation and to promote measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels, facilitating inter-country exchanges of experience and promoting both intraregional and interregional cooperation, as appropriate;

78. *Encourages* development agencies of the United Nations system to seek to maximize the opportunity to address development challenges on a regional or subregional basis, where appropriate, recognizing the important contribution of regional cooperation to national and regional development;

IX

South-South cooperation and development of national capacities

79. *Welcomes* the growing importance of South-South cooperation and its adoption as a driver of development effectiveness within the multi-year funding framework of the United Nations Development Programme;

80. *Urges* organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream, in their programmes and through their country-level activities and country offices, modalities to support South-South cooperation that would promote identification and dissemination of best practices, promote indigenous knowledge, know-how and technology in the South and facilitate networking among experts and institutions in developing countries;

81. *Invites* Member States and the organizations of the United Nations development system to celebrate the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in a befitting and comprehensive manner every year;

82. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, including from both the United Nations system and donors, and through triangular cooperation;

83. *Urges* all Member States and the organizations of the United Nations development system to actively participate in the High-Level Committee on the Review of South-South Cooperation with a view to formulating and reviewing the strategies as well as sharing information and their experience;

84. *Encourages*, in this regard, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies as well as centres of excellence in the South to contribute to the periodic updating of the Web of Information for Development, the electronic databank operated by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme in coordination with Governments, allowing for the wide diffusion of and access to the information contained therein, including experiences, best practices and potential partners in South-South cooperation;

85. *Highlights* the fact that, in spite of progress achieved in this area, further efforts are required to better understand the approaches and potential of South-South cooperation to enhance development effectiveness, including through national capacity development, and in this context calls upon all the organizations of the system to further enhance their support for national capacity development in the context of South-South cooperation;

X

Gender

86. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with the national development strategies;

87. *Urges* all organizations of the system to collaborate with the resident coordinator system to provide gender specialist resources in support of gender mainstreaming in country-level activities in all sectors where they operate, working closely with relevant national counterparts in generating the gender disaggregated,

quantitative and qualitative information required to produce better analysis of gender-related issues of development;

88. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of gender specialist resources, gender focal points and gender theme groups by establishing clear mandates, by ensuring adequate training, access to information and to adequate and stable resources, and by increasing the support and participation of senior staff;

89. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to avail itself of the technical experience of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on gender issues;

90. *Encourages* the continuing efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments within the United Nations system at the headquarters and country levels in positions that affect operational activities, including resident coordinator appointments, with due regard to representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographic representation;

91. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual report on resident coordinators includes adequate and concise information on progress on the above;

XI

Transition from relief to development

92. *Takes note* of the ongoing work within the United Nations on the complex issue of transition from relief to development;

93. *Recognizes* that the United Nations development system has a vital role to play in situations of transition from relief to development;

94. *Requests* the organizations of the system to strengthen interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination to ensure an integrated, coherent and coordinated approach to assistance at the country level, which takes account of the complexity of challenges that countries in those circumstances face and the country-specific character of those challenges;

95. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the important role that the effective resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator system can play in situations of transition from relief to development;

96. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need for such transitional activities to be undertaken under national ownership through the development of national capacities at all levels to manage the transition process;

97. *Recognizes* the benefits of sharing experience and expertise, and encourages the development of South-South cooperation modalities, including triangular cooperation modalities, to assist the transition from relief to development through, inter alia, the use of information technologies and knowledge management systems, as well as exchange of expertise to enable countries in that situation to benefit from the experience of other developing countries;

98. *Urges* the donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to consider more coordinated and flexible approaches to funding operational activities for development in situations of transition from relief to development, making use of multiple resource mobilization instruments, and stresses that contributions to

humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

99. *Urges* United Nations agencies and the donor community, in coordination with the national authorities, to begin planning the transition to development and taking measures supportive of that transition, such as institutional and capacity-building, from the beginning of the relief phase;

XII

Follow-up

100. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate actions for the full implementation of the present resolution, in line with paragraphs 91 and 92 of resolution 56/201;

101. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2005, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

102. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2006, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

103. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, inter alia, by making use of relevant documentation, and to make appropriate recommendations.

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/489)*]

59/251. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/229 of 23 December 2003, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/54 of 23 July 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory",[2] and recalling also its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Expressing its concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[2] A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

Expressing its concern also at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the recent period, including the uprooting of a vast number of olive trees,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, and of the dire economic and social consequences in this regard,

Aware also of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the need for the immediate resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, the principle of land for peace and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[3] as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, and for the achievement of a final settlement on all tracks,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,[4]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;

2. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, damage, cause loss or depletion of or endanger the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

75th plenary meeting
22 December 2004

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[3] See S/2003/529, annex.

[4] A/59/89-E/2004/21.